nal Application No

PC F/ IB2005/050867

a. classification of subject matter IPC 7 H04N7/26 H04N5/262 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 HO4N Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronio data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, INSPEC, IBM-TDB, COMPENDEX C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category ^o Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. "Steganographic Method for Х LOU D-C ET AL: 1,2,9,10 Secure Communications" COMPUTERS & SECURITY, ELSEVIER SCIENCE PUBLISHERS. AMSTERDAM, NL, vol. 21, no. 5, 1 October 2002 (2002-10-01), pages 449-460, XP004372532 ISSN: 0167-4048 abstract page 449, right-hand column, paragraph 2 3,4 page 454, left-hand column, last paragraph 5-8. Α - page 458, right-hand column, paragraph 2 -/--Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Χ Patent family members are listed in annex. Χ Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention *E* earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to filing date "L° document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 19 May 2005 03/06/2005 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentiaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Heising, G

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